

treatment of brain edema and raised intracranial pressure with particular reference to normal pressure hydrocephalus are especially useful since they provide practical diagnostic criteria and ideas concerning therapy. The latest in the pathogenesis and treatment of migraine and a workable scheme of aphasia and apraxia are covered in a very succinct and lucid manner. Finally the chapter "Clinical Application of Computerized Axial Tomography (CT Scanning)" attempts to provide a broad outline of certain well-defined, common, neurological problems. However, as the author suggests, the chapter is somewhat superficial and incomplete and is therefore less useful than is the remainder of the book.

*Recent Advances in Clinical Neurology—Number 2*, is highly recommended. The book should be most useful to students, residents and beginning practitioners of neurology who want a brief but concise update of common neurological problems. The price of the book seems to reflect today's rampant inflation.

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**CRITICAL CARE MEDICINE MANUAL**—Edited by Max Harry Weil, MD, PhD, Chairman and Clinical Professor, Division of Critical Care Medicine and Director of the Institute of Critical Care Medicine, University of Southern California Schools of Medicine and Engineering, Los Angeles; and Protasio L. Daluz, MD, Hospital das Clinicas da Faculdade de Medicina da Univ. de Sao Paulo, Brazil. Springer-Verlag New York Inc., 44 Hartz Way, Secaucus, NJ (07094), \$22.50.

Preliminary inspection of this book generates enthusiastic anticipation. However, in this instance the adage that one cannot tell the contents of a book by its cover proves to be true. The title leads one to believe that this is a reference manual for use in a critical care setting. However, the format does not follow the expected *cook-book* design. The shortcomings of this book are predominantly lack of organization and an ineffective attempt to provide a comprehensive manual that involves too broad a topic base.

In reviewing this text the question arises as to who might be interested in its use. It does not provide extensive enough detail to be useful to housestaff or to intensive care unit physicians. Its lack of concise organizational structure would impair its use for emergency reference, limiting its value to practicing emergency room physicians. Perhaps the answer lies in the preface where it is noted that the intent of this text is to supplement a course in critical care. This is repeatedly borne out by the conviction at the end of many chapters that much has not been discussed. Although this may not be as great a problem to those attending the critical care symposium, it would hamper a person who has not been a participant. Consequently, one is left to conclude that this is a text probably best suited for those who attended the critical care symposium and wish to have some permanent record to supplement the proceedings.

It is conceded that there are occasional nuggets of information that are scattered intermittently throughout

the text. However, one has to sift through considerable dross in the process. This text is a paradoxical blend of useful and useless information that suffers for lack of careful editing.

Admittedly, it is difficult to include extensive detail in a text with as broad a scope as attempted by the authors. However, as an example, it would seem vitally important to include problems and complications associated with flow-directed pulmonary artery catheters in the chapter discussing indications for their use. Additionally, it seems to be a poor choice to explore the relationship of pulmonary edema to hydrostatic and colloid osmotic pressures in man and base the discussion on a personal series of 26 patients, in only 14 of whom pulmonary edema developed. It is obvious that the current cardiology literature provides ample material to draw from in preparing a topic such as this.

There are particular commendable sections that should be noted. One of these is the discussion of shock lung, where organization of the material is presented in such a manner that it would be useful to critical care physicians. The chapter on acute pulmonary thromboembolism is also very well organized and well written. Similarly, the discussion of disseminated intravascular coagulation is presented in a straightforward and concise manner with a differential diagnosis of precipitating disorders. Also of value is the presentation of the principles of fluid challenge for routine management of shock. The standard fluid challenge protocol is outlined and should be very useful to critical care physicians.

Also of favorable note is the discussion of potentially fatal ventricular arrhythmias and their management with emphasis on prophylactic treatment of patients with myocardial infarction. This is a well-accepted approach and the outline of the management of such patients is well done. Similarly the discussion of impedance reduction in heart failure therapy is of timely importance. However, with the progress in this area in the current literature further updating of the information is necessary.

Other highlights of this text are the chapters on acute life-threatening fluid and electrolyte abnormalities and the metabolic causes of arrhythmias in critically ill patients. The organizational structure of the former lends itself for use in a critical care unit. A concise outline of causes, symptoms, signs and treatment is presented and is of obvious value. The latter chapter discusses the metabolic causes of arrhythmias in critically ill patients. This is a topic that needs to be stressed and should be very familiar to those responsible for the care of critically ill patients.

In summary, the title of this text is a misnomer in that it is not what one would expect from a manual. The recurring lack of organization and unfortunate brevity make it difficult to use as an emergency reference text. Its redeeming value lies in the periodic appearance of some very useful bits of information. It is only regrettable that the format does not lend itself to ready accessibility to this information.

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